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10/801,198	03/15/2004	Ramakanthachary S. Gottumukkala	M61.12-0614	1631
27366 7590 03/03/2010 WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) SUITE 1400 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402				
EXAMINER				
IWARERE, OLUSEYE				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,198

Applicant(s)

GOTTUMUKKALA ET AL.

Examiner

OLUSEYE IWARERE

Art Unit

3687

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12, 14, 17 and 23-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12, 14, 17 and 23-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the correspondence sent on 11/04/2009. Claims 10, 13, 15-16, 18, and 21 – 28 and the remarks have been fully considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 10 – 12, 14, 17 and 23 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crawshaw (2001/0042032).**

As per claim 10, Crawshaw discloses, a method of capturing time and expense data into an accounting database via forms (abstract; The inventive system automatically converts the raw time and expense data by considering any client or project-specific billing requirements and by applying such specific requirements to the raw time and/or expense data in generating an invoice), the method comprising:

hosting a plurality of forms on a server, each form being accessible to a user over a network via a browser ([0009] The browser also renders HTML/Javascript web

pages, forms, etc. on the user's computer received from the application server via the web server) and each form comprising:

data fields for user data entry ([0055] data entry links 420 (also 220, 320, 520, and 720), which permits a properly authorized user to enter new data);

an object for submitting the form when completed by the user form ([0082] The off-line version of time sheets functionality enables a user time data in a manner similar to that provided via the web site, but that functionality is limited to data entry. Data entered using the off-line time sheets functionality can only be submitted for approval, and approved via the web site), wherein the object comprises a button for electronic submission of the (fig. 4A depicts a button for submission); and

embedded server controls for invoke business rules upon submission by the user, the business rules being written in managed code, wherein the embedded server controls comprises calls to a services application program interface (API) that are invoked by the form to define transactions with the accounting database using the business rules ([0039]; Once the user's computer 80 is connected to the web server 50 in that manner, the application server 30 passes hypertext mark-up language (HTML) and/or Javascript code to the user's browser through the web server 50 to facilitate the display of desired web pages at the user's computer 80. As the user navigates the web site, which is construed as navigating using server controls, different web pages may be displayed on the user's computer 80. The Javascript code is construed as the managed code); and

providing a requested form of the plurality of forms to the user over the network for display within a window of the browser (figs. 1 and 7 depict providing a requested form over the network for display within a window);

receiving user data in the data fields of the requested form and invoking the object associated with the requested form to submit the requested form upon completion of the requested form using a processor of a computer, wherein the form invokes the business rules, using the server controls embedded in the submitted form to process the user data in the project accounting system using the services API when the object is invoked ([0015]; provide a system for capturing, processing, tracking and reporting internal time and expense data, and for invoicing clients using external time and expense data that is derived from the internal time and expense data. As used herein, the term "internal", when used to refer to time and expense data, refers to raw data entered by a user that reflects the actual time spent and expenses incurred in providing a particular service or in completing a particular project, without consideration of any write-offs, discounts, or other accommodations sometimes provided to clients. As used herein, the term "external", when used to refer to time and expense data, refers to time and expense data derived from internal time and expense data; "derived from" generally referring herein to manipulation, modification, etc., of the internal data by the server and special purpose software to produce external data).; and

wherein processing the user data ([0046] The web-native special purpose software, together with the server and a server processor (i.e., web server/processor,

application server/processor and data server/processor) that is operable with the general and special purpose software, provide a system for capturing, processing, tracking and reporting internal time and expense data, and for reporting time and expense date (e.g., by invoicing clients) using external time and expense data that is derived from the internal time and expense data.) ([0050] An interface object 136 may encapsulate the functionality of forms, lists, navigation tabs, fonts, colors, etc., so as to provide a consistent graphical user interface at the user's computer 80. Business objects 170, which encapsulate any predefined business rules (that may be globally specified or specified per account) and relationships between and among clients, projects, etc., may also be included in an interface object 136) comprises;

interacting with the accounting database according to the user data contained in the submitted form and the invoked business rules, wherein the services API associates the user data contained in the submitted form to entities in the accounting database based on the embedded server controls embedded in the form. ([0017] The API enables seamless and real -time exchange of time, expense and invoicing data which is construed as data submitted in the forms, between the data server (database) which is construed as the accounting database and other web-based or platform specific software applications); and

querying the accounting database according to the user data based on the invoked business rules to return a value for display in a form within a window of the browser wherein the value is displayed in the form based on the embedded server controls embedded in the form ([0011] The application server receives data from the

user's computer and the data server, and may validate or perform other internal operations on that data. The step of validating or performing other internal operations is construed as including querying and fig. 7A depicts displaying in a window).

Crawshaw discloses the claimed invention except for automatically invoking by the form when the form is submitted by the user. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the invoking by the form when the form is submitted by the user automatic, since it has been held that broadly providing a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity which has accomplished the same result involves only routine skill in the art.

In re Venner, 120 USPQ 192.

As per claim 11, Crawshaw discloses, wherein the managed code is written to a common language runtime environment ([0035]; Once the user's computer 80 is connected to the web server 50 in that manner, the application server 30 passes hypertext mark-up language (HTML) and/or Javascript code to the user's browser through the web server 50. Java is understood as including a common language runtime environment).

As per claim 12, Crawshaw discloses, wherein the step of hosting comprises:

storing a plurality of web forms on a web server wherein at least one of the plurality of web forms is a timesheet form (abstract; The inventive system maintains the internal (raw) data, the external (invoiced) data, and other parameters associated with those data in a plurality of relational databases, and coordinates that data between and among a plurality of functionality including time bills, expense reports, time sheets, proposals, and project tracking functionality); and

providing at least one of the plurality of forms to the user over the network for display within a window of the Internet browser ([0066] In response to that action by the second user, an Internet browser window is opened on the second user's computer, a connection to the web site established, and the second user logs on to his/her account on the web site and is automatically shown the time sheets submitted by the first user).

As per claim 14, Crawshaw discloses, wherein the step of interacting comprises: storing data in the accounting database ([0010] stores and indexes both internal and external time and expense data, and account data in one or more relational databases provided on one or a plurality of rapid access data storage units).

As per claim 17, Crawshaw discloses, a system for capturing time and expense information over a network and for processing the information into an accounting system ([abstract]; a system that accepts and stores raw time and expense data for a plurality of businesses—each business defining a separate account that is accessible

and usable by authorized users for the particular business) ([0002] The present invention is directed to a system for capturing, processing, tracking and reporting time and expense data), the system comprising:

an accounting system that stores time and expense information ([Abstract]; A system that accepts and stores raw time and expense data for a plurality of businesses) ([Abstract]; The inventive system automatically converts the raw time and expense data by considering any client or project-specific billing requirements and by applying such specific requirements to the raw time and/or expense data in generating an invoice);

a plurality of web part forms having data fields for user data input over a network via a browser ([0012]; Once a user has connected to the web site and logged on, a web page is displayed on the user's computer by the browser. At the web page, the user may make various selections depending upon the particular functionality desired (e.g., enter time, expenses, administer account, generate invoice, etc.). Each selection (i.e., each mouse click) is processed by the web server and passed on to the application server which invokes or executes one or more software programs that, individually or collectively provide the functionality required by the user's selection); and

a services application program interface (API) for implementing and sequencing business rules written in managed code to process the user input into the accounting system, wherein each of the web part forms contain embedded calls to the services API that are invoked by the web part form upon submission of the web part form to invoke transactions with the accounting system to process the user input into the accounting

system, and wherein the transactions with the accounting system invoked by the embedded calls contained in the web part forms comprise initiating an approval process for the submitted web part form and associating the user data contained in the submitted form with entities in the accounting system wherein the approval process is initiated by the web part form using the embedded calls to the services API such that the services API processes the user data contained in the submitted form, based on the embedded calls, using the business rules ([0050] An interface object 136 may encapsulate the functionality of forms, lists, navigation tabs, fonts, colors, etc., so as to provide a consistent graphical user interface at the user's computer 80. Business objects 170, which encapsulate any predefined business rules (that may be globally specified or specified per account) and relationships between and among clients, projects, etc., may also be included in an interface object 136); and

a server that hosts the plurality of web part forms containing embedded calls to the services API and serves the web part forms containing embedded calls to the services API to users on request (fig. 2 depicts a server).

Crawshaw discloses the claimed invention except for automatically invoking by the web part form when the form is submitted by the user. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the invoking by the form when the form is submitted by the user automatic, since it has been held that broadly providing a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity which has accomplished the same result involves only routine skill in the art.

In re Venner, 120 USPQ 192.

As per claim 21, Crawshaw discloses wherein the form is a web part form that includes embedded server controls ([0042] discloses embedded server controls).

As per claim 22, Crawshaw discloses, wherein the business rules invoked by the embedded calls define a workflow process including at least an approval process for approving the data contained within the submitted form ([0047]; discusses approving data contained in the submitted form).

As per claim 23, Crawshaw discloses wherein the web part forms contain embedded server controls for calling the services API ([0042] discloses embedded server controls).

As per claim 24, Crawshaw discloses wherein the calls contained in the web part forms comprise embedded calls to the services API using remoting ([0042] discloses embedded calls).

As per claim 25, Crawshaw discloses wherein the calls contained in the web part forms comprise embedded calls to the services API using Web services ([0042] discloses embedded calls).

As per claim 26, wherein at least one of the plurality of web part forms represents a timesheet form, and wherein the embedded calls contained in the timesheet form are invoked by the timesheet form upon submission of the timesheet form by the user to provide the timesheet form to the approval process ([0042] discusses embedded calls in a form and the [0043] discusses approval of the form).

As per claim 27, wherein the transactions invoked by the embedded calls contained in the timesheet form implement the business rules to provide the timesheet form to an administrator for authorization of the user data contained in the timesheet form and at least one of deletion of the timesheet form, modification of the timesheet form, and return of the timesheet form to the user ([0054] discusses authorization by an administrator).

As per claim 28, wherein the embedded calls to the services API invoked by the form define transactions with the project accounting system including querying the project accounting system based on the instantiated business rules to return a value for display in the user interface ([0011] discusses conversion of data based on business rules which is understood as instantiated).

As per claim 29, wherein the form comprises a timesheet form and the embedded calls in the timesheet form instantiate an approval process for approving the

timesheet form and storing data from the timesheet form to the project accounting system ([0064] discusses an automatic submission for approval).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 11/04/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant disagrees that Crawshaw discloses a form having embedded calls to a services API. "The alleged web part form (i.e., the web page of Crawshaw) does not contain calls to a services API. More importantly, nowhere does Crawshaw even suggest that calls can be embedded within a form. Any invocation of a call to a services API disclosed in Crawshaw is with respect to the servers 30, 50 or 70 that receive the data from the form. In this manner, it is not a form that would invoke a call to a services API. In fact, the only mention of an API in Crawshaw occurs in paragraph [0017], which states that the server can include an API that specifies protocol, format, etc. for data packets imported into the server from other software applications. Crawshaw states that the API uses XML as a data protocol to communicate between the user and the API. Crawshaw specifically states that "users may access the API view of the web server and application server" (paragraph [0017]). Thus, not only does Crawshaw fail to teach or suggest a form having embedded calls, Crawshaw appears to teach away from a form that invokes business rules or embedded calls to a services API.

However, the API mentioned in paragraph [0017] has the function of specifying the protocol, format etc. for time, expense and invoicing data packets imported into the server from another software application. The API in Crawshaw is actively "defining transactions within the accounting database using the business rules." Therefore, the Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OLUSEYE IWARERE whose telephone number is (571)270-5112. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on (571)272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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